AMERICAS PROGRAM CONFERENCE REPORT

Safety and Security In North American Trade

Introduction:

On July 16, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a multi-panel conference entitled "Safety and Security in North American Trade". The decision to hold such a conference was the result of CSIS' longstanding interest in the development of NAFTA-related trade, and more specifically the security implications of this trade confronting policymakers in the post-September 11 environment. The goal of the proceedings was to unite governmental and non-governmental actors in order to develop strategies and assess the impact of two areas of this trade which have recently been the subject of much attention and debate: the cross-border pharmaceutical trade, specifically the issue of cross-border re-importation of prescription drugs, and the adequacy of phytosanitary measures, specifically with regards to agricultural imports.

As the homeland security architecture continues to evolve, including the Smart Border agreements with Canada and Mexico, it is becoming clear that federal agencies are facing a myriad of threats to the security of the United States. However, what is not always clear is how these threats should be characterized. The issues of prescription drug re-importation and the adequacy of phytosanitary measures are relevant examples pertaining to this question, with advocates on both sides of the debate presenting a host of arguments to support their claims.

Since these issues are currently at the forefront of many debates, CSIS convened this conference to offer an objective setting in which advocates on both sides of the debate could present their arguments, and where the greater Washington policy-making community could hear these arguments and participate in the debate. The result of the proceedings is contained in this report.

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Executive Summary:

North American trade in goods and services has increased substantially since NAFTA came into existence at the start of 1994. The increase in merchandise imports from Mexico from the start of 1994 until the end of 2002 has averaged 9 percent a year, and 7 percent a year from Canada. Today, the NAFTA partners trade $615 billion, and the United States–Canada trading relationship is the largest in the world, with $450 billion in goods being traded per year. Since 1994, U.S exports with Canada and Mexico have been growing at a rapid pace, constituting 37 percent of total U.S exports in 2002, compared to 31 percent in 1993. At the same time, this trade has been growing at a faster pace than U.S. trade with the rest of the world. Although Canada and Mexico account for only 6 percent of the world's GDP and 2 percent of its population, together they are now the destination of two-fifths of U.S exports.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, augmented security concerns posed by some of this burgeoning trade. Post -September 11, North American officials have confronted the new dilemma of how to maintain this beneficial trade while minimizing security risks associated with such a large trading relationship. Accordingly, the United States signed "Smart Border" agreements with both Canada and Mexico that aim to develop techniques to accomplish this dual task. However, although these programs help to make the border smarter by keeping the border "open to trade and closed to terrorists," the sophisticated terrorist threat has evolved beyond containing the simple illegal entry of goods and people into the United States. Terrorists may find other techniques to take advantage of the open trade in North America and use new methods to threaten the security of the U.S. population and its economy. In particular, two concerns stand out.

The first is the growing pharmaceutical trade to the United States from Canada and Mexico. Due to its informal nature, the size of this commerce has never been measured, but it is clearly burgeoning due to the significantly higher cost of prescription drugs in the United States. NAFTA does not deal directly with the safety issues raised by these pharmaceutical imports, but in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, concerns have increased that these flows could provide a novel new way for terrorist organizations to threaten the U.S. population. Efforts by U.S. consumers to seek lower cost pharmaceutical products from Mexico, and especially from Canada, made this a controversial trade and regulatory issue in recent years. The price disparity that is driving this trade has more than a single cause. The exchange rate favors the U.S. dollar, increasing its purchase power in Canada and, unlike the United States, Canada has a widely applicable price control regime. Moreover, there are important interest groups, including those representing senior citizens, which wish to continue the practice of buying drugs in Canada.

As this trade has grown, however, so too have concerns about the safety of these drugs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has pointed out that it is a violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for anyone

other than U.S. manufacturers to import U.S.-made drugs back into the United States. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) argues that this uncontrolled shipment of prescription drugs to the United States leaves a hole in the enforcement structure through which an illegal narcotics trade could flourish, such as the shipment of amphetamines or their precursor chemicals sent by shippers other than registered pharmacists from anywhere in the world. At the same time, there are growing concerns that this illegal trade may offer opportunities for terrorist organizations to transfer contaminated precursor chemicals or finished pharmaceuticals into the United States.

The second issue involves sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, with the main concerns being agricultural trade in North America and the vulnerability of U.S. consumers to the deliberate contamination of food and agricultural imports. SPS safeguards to protect human, animal, and plant life from pests, food additives, and contaminants are built into the NAFTA agreement as they are into worldwide trade agreements, but do not adequately address the security dimension. In its SPS literature, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) summarizes the rights and obligations of each NAFTA country to establish the level of protection it considers appropriate as long as the measures are (1) based on scientific principles, (2) applied only as necessary to provide the chosen level of protection, and (3) do not discriminate as a form of disguised trade protection. Each country is encouraged to use the relevant international standards that exist but may adopt more stringent measures. NAFTA also has a committee on SPS measures.

Focusing on the more stringent security environment since September 11, 2001, the question arises whether the standards used by the United States to protect against risks to human, animal, and plant life arising from the import of food and animal products are also effectively configured to protect against the willful use of such imports by terrorists to disrupt cross-border trade and undermine confidence in the U.S. consumer market. Recent scares of mad cow disease in Canada as well as food tampering in the United States have illustrated the importance of these issues.

Dealing with the trade/safety/security triad in these two areas raises complex problems. On July 16, 2003, the CSIS Americas Program hosted a multi-panel forum to stimulate discussion of the safety and security of cross-border trade between the United States and its closest neighbors and to share ideas and develop strategies. The morning panels focused on the issue of prescription drug re-importation, mainly from Canada, with viewpoints offered by government officials, public advocates, and the private sector. In the afternoon, discussion turned to the issue of SPS measures, focusing on agricultural imports, with participation by representatives of the U.S. government, the Canadian government, and the private imports sector. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the merits of safety/security suggestions and weigh these against other considerations.

PANEL 1: Pharmaceutical Trade – Government

After opening remarks by Erik Peterson, senior vice president and director of studies at CSIS, the conference began

with a panel of U.S government experts and a Canadian regulatory agency representative. Moderated by Dr. Sidney Weintraub, director of the CSIS Americas Program, this panel provided a view of the interplay among various U.S. and Canadian agencies in their efforts to oversee prescription drug re-importation and the safety implications of this practice. The three government representatives all placed emphasis on safety, and were unanimous in their opinion of the need to coordinate regulation. Peter Pitts, associate commissioner for external relations for the FDA, referred to the search for "a shared solution to a twenty-first century problem."

Left to Right: Guse, Weintraub, Pitts, and Nagel

Consumer safety, and the real threat that illegal drugs could pose, was a main topic of discussion. The panelists reached a consensus that regulation is lagging behind the capabilities of the better-organized drug distributors. Mr. Pitts emphasized the need to regulate prescription drugs in order to ensure consumer safety. Although he said that all unauthorized drug importation and re-importation is illegal, he called drug counterfeiting the most serious threat associated with prescription-drug re-importation. The 20 best-selling drugs, he said, are the primary targets of counterfeiters. Citing the FDA's duty to maintain "public trust," his warning to drug counterfeiters, whom he called "healthcare criminals," was "we are out to get you." He insisted that, "drug safety is not a partisan issue," and called for large-scale collaboration among government organizations, public interest groups, and the private sector to stop the counterfeiters.

Similar arguments were made by Laura Nagel, deputy assistant administrator in DEA's Office of Diversion Control. She expounded on the challenges of regulating this drug trade from an enforcement perspective, focusing her presentation on the DEA's current involvement in efforts to regulate and restrict prescription-drug re-importation. Ms. Nagel asserted the need to ensure that an adequate drug supply is available to the U.S. public while focusing on the identification and investigation of illegal proliferation and diversion that remains the main goal of the DEA in this effort. She stated that DEA is the only agency empowered to authorize drug imports or exports, and that all non-authorized imports/exports are illegal. She pointed as an example to the importation of controlled substances (defined as those that lend themselves to abuse or dependence, such as morphine, amphetamines, etc.) as a key DEA activity. Noting that a very small percentage of controlled substances were actually being "re-imported" from Canada, Ms. Nagel emphasized the role of the DEA in controlling imported mail-order prescription drugs and those procured by foot-traffic, especially from Mexico.

Expanding on the theme of the regulatory challenge was Ronald Guse, registrar at the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, an organization member of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Agencies (Canada). Mr.

Guse agreed that regulation is necessary to protect patients and repeated that one of the main problems at the moment is that the flow of pharmaceuticals is exceeding the ability of governments to regulate. He described efforts in Manitoba as designed not only to identify but also to register "Internet pharmacies" as a means of ensuring the quality of drug ordered, and illustrated the difficulties in achieving this task. Many of the "International Prescription Service (IPS) Pharmacies" (Internet mail-order providers) that claim to be Canadian organizations are neither located in, nor regulated by, Canadian provinces. Mr. Guse noted that these IPS providers rely on the U.S. public's perception that Canadian drugs are just as safe as U.S. drugs and benefit from Canada's system of distribution, where price controls arranged by the Canadian government make prescription drugs available to the consumer at a fraction of the U.S. cost. Although Mr. Guse admitted that this price differential may make the difference between a patient's ability to take the drug or not, he also pointed out that the impersonal nature of the mail-order system marks a disturbing shift in the prescription drug trade from an emphasis on patient care to an emphasis on product distribution. For Mr. Guse, this shift not only compromises drug safety but also presents challenges to pharmacists trying to do their jobs effectively. One example Mr. Guse cited was how the lucrative nature of the sale of drugs through the Internet encouraged applications to become pharmacists to come from unqualified sources, even in one instance from an auto-body shop.

Mr. Guse noted, however, that this debate cannot ignore the ethical dimension of the trade. He argued that currently Canadian pharmacists are torn between their professional obligation to provide drugs to their patients and their responsibility to uphold the law. At a time when fraudulent IPS providers and the Internet trade are growing faster than the government's ability to regulate, Mr. Guse called attention to a potential squeeze on Canadian patients if the demand of U.S. residents exceeds the short run availability in Canada. In light of these concerns, he echoed other panelists and called for a strengthened cooperation between U.S. and Canadian agencies.

Safety remained the main topic of discussion during the question-and-answer session, but concern for consumer safety was enlarged to include national security as well. When asked whether there existed a relationship between drug importation profits and terrorist funding, all three panelists admitted there was a possibility that such a link might exist, but they were careful to play down the risk. Mr. Pitts argued that although there is no hard evidence establishing a link between this trade and terrorist financing, he conceded that "terrorists need to make money." Mr. Guse echoed this evaluation, pointing to the lucrative nature of a market that is developing faster than regulation. For her part, Ms. Nagel did confirm that DEA had found money trails to the Middle East in operations referred to as "Northern Star" and "Mountain Express."

Turning back to the consumer safety issue, the question of how each agency intended to address the re-importation problem was then discussed. The three panelists uniformly gave priority to

public education as the vital tool for ensuring consumer safety. Mr. Pitts saw a danger in switching the conversation to political threats when the real concern should be patient safety. Mr. Guse echoed Mr. Pitts's comment, pointing out that many parties—including the governments of the states from which many of the dangerous, unregulated drugs are coming—are examining this issue from a trade perspective when it should be considered a health matter. Ms. Nagel believes U.S. residents import much more from the "huge [prescription drug] industry" in Mexico with its much lower quality assurances than they import from Canada. She went so far as to state that she has "little confidence" in the quality of prescription drugs from Mexico and cited instances of stolen drugs reappearing on Mexican shelves for resale.

In response to the third main theme of the panel—the regulation question—a question was asked about the possibility of a merger of the different regulatory systems in NAFTA countries. Mr. Pitts replied that, to his knowledge, no such proposal is being considered, but he did underline the necessity of having a "closed system" to maintain drug safety. Mr. Guse also advocated a "closed system," but also mentioned that the U.S. and Canadian governments already share a good deal of information. Although the two governments do plan to deepen this cooperation, several issues, such as respect for sovereignty and patent rights differentials—in both time and scope—complicate the goal of achieving greater cooperation.

A final point was raised from the audience concerning possible steps that could be taken to create an environment in which there is a disincentive for U.S residents to travel across the border to buy prescription drugs. Mr. Pitts returned to his argument that, first and foremost, the U.S government must ensure the safety of drugs for U.S consumers. Mr. Guse echoed his colleague's assertions, referencing the various costs associated with providing the regulated safety net to ensure patient safety. Mr. Guse called these expenses critical, reporting that approximately 25 percent of hospital admissions are due to medication mishaps. As patient access to unregulated prescription drugs increases, so too does the risk.

Dr. Weintraub closed the discussion by pointing to a dilemma inherent in the NAFTA accord: the United States, Canada, and Mexico all have different regulatory systems, and each country remains strongly attached to its own practices. Although common standards may be agreed on for most imports, prescription drugs are inherently more risky and merit special treatment.

PANEL 2: Pharmaceutical Trade – Non-Government

The second panel on the pharmaceutical trade issue focused on non-governmental views, bringing together the industry perspective and those of public advocates. A variety of different opinions were voiced, with the pricing of drugs and its connection to trade security dominating the presentations and discussion. The session was moderated by Dr. Charles F. Doran, Andrew W. Mellon professor of international relations and director of the Center for Canadian Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. It

began with a presentation by Geralyn Ritter, assistant general counsel for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Ms. Ritter pointed to national security as the paramount public concern but noted that even as the United States is giving increased attention to personal safety, international trade continues to grow, resulting in a subsequent upsurge in the counterfeiting of prescription drugs. Ms. Ritter noted that although the U.S market has for years been the "gold standard" for the world with the safest drug supply, some estimates state that currently 25 percent of all international trade of pharmaceuticals is counterfeit in origin. Echoing a consensus on the first panel, Ms. Ritter added that the growth of technology and the Internet have only encouraged this dangerous trend. There are over 1,000 Internet drug sites targeting the U.S market. Ms. Ritter argued that although these sites claim to produce their drugs in Canada, they are in fact sold by counterfeiters in China and India, who use Canada's reputation for safety as a means of selling unsafe drugs to patients in the United States. Ms. Ritter concluded by noting that, although the importance of defeating the terrorist threat has been recognized, there has not been a similar effort to ensure that illegal drugs are not sold to U.S consumers. As a solution to this problem, Ms. Ritter advocated increased cooperation among governmental organizations in all three North American countries to decrease the risk that imported and counterfeited pharmaceuticals pose.

The next panelist was Chellie Pingree, president of Common Cause, a non-partisan citizens' organization. Ms. Pingree brought a different perspective to the panel, having taken bus trips with seniors from Maine to Canada to fill their prescriptions. She acknowledged that those trips are not good policy but stressed that for many seniors such steps are necessary because of the high U.S. prices for medications. Ms. Pingree stressed that she does not agree with re-importation but sees no way to avoid the practice when domestic drug prices are higher than most normal seniors can afford. Ms. Pingree expanded this argument to the safety theme, arguing that taking bus trips to Canada was not as much a security risk when compared to the need for affordable prescription drugs. She did not encounter safety concerns with the drugs she witnessed imported during those trips across the border. Describing a typical trip, Ms. Pingree outlined how after meeting with a dual-licensed physician at the border, the seniors got their medications from U.S.-style drug stores and licensed Canadian pharmacists. Building on those experiences, Ms. Pingree stressed that the Medicare bill now before Congress includes no price regulations, which she argued was a direct result of the strong influence that pharmaceutical companies exert on Capitol Hill. Although many people argue that lowering drug costs would stifle innovation and endanger research and development budgets, Ms. Pingree supported her argument by stating that research and development constitutes only 13 percent of a typical pharmaceutical company's budget, compared with 16 percent spent on marketing. As long as this situation persists, Ms. Pingree argued that the cross-border re-importation of prescription drugs would continue, whether or not it is good policy.

The third and final panelist was Dr. Elizabeth Wennar, president and CEO of the United Health Alliance, an organization in Bennington, Vermont, dedicated to giving seniors access to affordable prescription drugs. Dr. Wennar's remarks also expressed dismay with the growing costs of prescription drugs in the United States, framing the issue as an ethical one. Dr. Wennar argued that Congress has three options on the re-importation issue: it could help stop the cross-border trade, leave the issue alone, or control the flow of drugs. Dr. Wennar expressed a preference for the last option, agreeing with Chellie Pingree that the elderly take the risk of crossing the border out of necessity.

Turning to the issue of drug safety, Dr. Wennar stated that she has yet to encounter a case where the drugs caused significant negative effects on the patients buying them. Echoing Ms. Pingree's comments, Dr. Wennar concluded by stating that she believes that we have an obligation to change current law, and to use the technology available to us to meet human needs.

Left to Right: Ritter, Doran, Pingree, and Wennar

Three main themes dominated the question-and-answer session. The first theme was national security, which Dr. Wennar raised by asking audience members if they personally are scared or worried about terrorists using the pharmaceutical drugs as a means of terrorism. Edie Semler, director of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, linked her response to the September 11 attacks, arguing that before September 11, 2001, few people would have thought that a small group of terrorists could do so much damage to the United States and create such a climate of fear. She argued that today anything remains possible, and that we must keep in mind that the risk exists.

Beyond the scope of national security, two other audience members brought the discussion back to the effects of differing price structures and the safety concerns created by them as they force many seniors to seek drugs abroad. The first question came from a representative of the Canadian Embassy, and concerned the current Medicare bill in Congress. Expressing his own skeptical opinion, the representative asked whether the current legislation would help resolve the problem of re-importation. Ms. Pingree responded by saying that the proposal would help, but because it only covers people that have less than $15,000 in income, it still neglects the large number of people who have a greater income but still cannot afford their medications. Ms. Ritter answered the question by going back to one of her main points, namely that the United States is the central location for pharmaceutical innovation and would greatly suffer from lower prices.

The second theme returned to a topic raised in the first panel—the safety of Internet sites pretending to operate out of Canada. Ronald Guse pointed out that some of the Internet sites that claim to be accredited operate with invalid accreditation. Mr. Guse concluded that beyond the need for affordable drugs,

one must carefully judge standards and needs as a means to measure safety. He reiterated his belief that associations and boards must work together to make any trade across borders more valid and safe. In response to Mr. Guse's comments, Dr. Wennar argued that lower prices would be a first step toward creating a disincentive for counterfeiters to target U.S consumers. While agreeing with Dr. Wennar in principle, Ms. Ritter urged action by all those concerned, not only the pharmaceutical companies.

Keynote Address: Commissioner Bonner

Commissioner Robert Bonner of the U.S Customs and Border Protection Service (CBPS) delivered the conference keynote address. He gave a broad overview of the new service he heads within the newly created Department of Homeland Security (DHS). CBPS aims to enhance security as dictated by the measures adopted by Congress following September 11, 2001, while continuing to facilitate trade. Mr. Bonner said the merger of the U.S. Customs Service with other entities has created one 'face' at the border, with capability to check all cross-border traffic regardless of its nature. For Commissioner Bonner, these reforms have eliminated inefficiencies and vulnerabilities. The new service will play a vital role in homeland security.

Mr. Bonner's remarks differentiated between the two themes conveyed in the conference's title: the safety aspects and the security aspects of North American trade. He explained that the criteria for judging the safety question are determined by other agencies, such as the FDA or the USDA. His service, Mr. Bonner noted, has the task of implementing the standards set by other agencies. CBPS is at the forefront of U.S. border security and has the frontline task of stopping all forms of terrorist incursions into the United States, whether the more historic concern regarding the passage of people or goods into the United States from Mexico and Canada or new potential threats, such as the re-importation of pharmaceuticals.

Commissioner Bonner was optimistic that CBPS could achieve safe and secure trade in North America with vigorous enforcement and the help of other agencies. He pointed to post–September 11 reforms to border procedures, especially the "Smart Border" agreements with Canada and Mexico. Perhaps an even more important change than the improved statistics and the details of new procedures was the new way of thinking about border security. The commissioner outlined this thinking by describing some of the new programs in place, especially those with Canada. Three prominent examples were the Container Security Initiative, already active at 18 international ports, which identifies suspect containers before they are loaded onto a vessel bound for the United States; the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program, which grants qualifying firms expedited clearance at the border, often requiring less than 11 seconds per vehicle; and the NEXUS program, which allows low-risk individuals to be pre-screened and presented with a proximity card containing biometric data. Although Mr. Bonner was optimistic that these programs were moving in the right direction, he did note that difficulties have been occurring on the Mexican border.

Commissioner Bonner concluded his remarks on safety and security by urging urgent consideration of what is called "reverse inspections," a proposal that has stirred controversy in the past. The proposal is very much in line with post–September 11 thinking in that goods would be inspected before they crossed the border. The many bridge border crossings are highly vulnerable to attack. Mr. Bonner argued that such an attack would have a huge impact on the cross-border economy, especially on those firms using cross border just-in-time manufacturing techniques. He acknowledged that the main problems were national sovereignty issues and the need to give full legal authority to officials acting on the other side of their national boundary. He noted that the United Kingdom and France have successfully implemented such measures on either side of the Channel Tunnel. He expressed frustration that this proposal appears to be languishing, surmising that in the event of such an attack the two governments would implement reverse inspections in a second.

Robert Bonner, Commissioner,
U.S. Customs Service

The discussion following Commissioner Bonner's remarks centered on procedures and perceptions of the border, and new directions that these Smart Border programs could take. An early question raised the idea of one, unified border-inspection process between Canada and the United States. In response, Commissioner Bonner acknowledged that perhaps more imagination is needed. He stated that if an adequate "comfort level" could be found, with a benchmarking of standards, there might be less pressure on the border. He suggested (without expressing a viewpoint on the issue) that there could be the possibility of a secure perimeter and minimal checks on flows within that perimeter.

An audience member noted the gap in threat perception between Canada and the United States and asked Mr. Bonner whether the Canadian border poses a security threat to the United States. The commissioner replied by reminding the audience that none of those persons involved in the September 11 hijackings entered the country via Canada. He acknowledged, however, that vigilance is always necessary as illustrated by the case of the "Millennium Bomber," Ahmed Ressam, in 1999. The constant worry is that if you can enter Canada, you can enter the United States. He stressed that the two countries have a common interest in stopping terrorism because the economies of Canada and the United States would both suffer in the event of an attack.

A final question returned to the morning panel theme of the pharmaceutical trade, asking what CBPS was doing to address this issue. Mr. Bonner conceded that there was no new program in place to

deal with this increasing trade but stressed that his service is working with the FDA to understand the problem in order to most effectively tackle it. While noting that the issue was important and needed serious consideration, Mr. Bonner reminded the audience that CBPS is fully prepared to operationally follow up on any threats identified by the FDA.

PANEL 3: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

The afternoon panel focused on the issue of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Despite the increasing scale of agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico and Canada, there has been little attention given to the issue of security, or to the potential threats to national security that deliberately contaminated produce could pose. This panel brought together government officials, a consumer advocate, and a representative from the private sector to address this issue.

Dorothy Preslar, the moderator and an expert in the field of security risks to the agricultural trade, began the proceedings by highlighting the wide range of potential threats posed to consumers and the industry, including unlisted additives, toxic chemicals, and disease carriers and waste. Ms. Preslar stated that measures needed to be found to protect nations from outbreaks and contaminated goods without disrupting trade, industry, and diplomatic relations. She highlighted the need to distinguish between intentional and unintentional acts of contamination.

Following Ms. Preslar's introduction, Caroline Smith DeWaal, director of food safety at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, gave a presentation on the potential risks posed to consumers and possible courses of action. She started her presentation by highlighting the vulnerability of the food supply, predicting that should the food supply become a terrorist target, consumer confidence would quickly plummet. She highlighted her argument with a discussion of the impact of minor incidents over recent years.

Left to Right: DeWaal, Pandol, Preslar

Ms. DeWaal then turned to the bioterrorism threat and identified several potential weaknesses in the response. She outlined three issues particularly concerning bio-terrorism preparedness: recognition of a problem if it happens, speed of response, and prevention of sabotage. Ms. DeWaal noted that the potential exists for terrorists to develop an agent that is not recognized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and for which no test exists. Accordingly, she pointed to the many laboratory shortcomings that could lead to delays in outbreak identification, such as a passive state-run system resulting in uneven testing and the lack of surge capacity to handle emergencies effectively. She stressed the importance of rapid analysis and dissemination of information to consumers, who are unable to postpone their consumption while investigations progress, and pointed to the lack of specialized staff in hospitals in smaller communities. All of this could result in the system being overwhelmed. She did,

however, also indicate that progress had been made since the September 11 attacks, such as the installation of basic communications equipment, laboratory accreditation, and test standardization. Although most of the WHO-recommended response systems are in place in the United States, Ms. DeWaal singled out food recall, tracing systems, and inter-department communications as fields in need of further refinement.

Ms. DeWaal argued that the onus is on the producers to ensure food safety and that international rules were largely designed to facilitate trade, not to protect consumers, although the WHO has identified many areas of vulnerability along the entire supply chain. She criticized the weak auditing procedures, due in part from the fact that responsibility is divided between the FDA and the USDA and in part from an uneven distribution of resources, resulting in the FDA's inspection regime being weaker than it should be. She emphasized this last statement by noting that FDA-regulated foods are involved in 80 percent of food-borne illness outbreaks. Although this has been corrected to some extent by the new bio-terrorism legislation, the FDA's new powers are still considered quite weak. Ms. DeWaal concluded by stating that the United States is still using "old tools to address new hazards" and by reminding the audience that the United States still lacked a national food-safety coordination body.

Associate administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Peter Fernandez, followed Ms. DeWaal. He described the work done by APHIS analyzing animals, plants, and their products as disease vectors. He discussed the Safeguarding Review of 1999/2000 that examined the ability of APHIS to protect U.S. agriculture. The report criticized AFHIS's failure to have a sufficient overseas staff to monitor potential threats and keep APHIS informed. Following that report, APHIS has placed officers in several international ports to collect information and assist nations in identifying disease risks. Dr. Fernandez continued by discussing the pre-clearance program, which examines and seals goods before they arrive in the country to try to diminish the risk of infection. He also mentioned the development of critical infrastructure protection measures and contingency plans prepared to anticipate terrorist acts. While acknowledging the potential threat posed by agro-terrorism, Dr. Fernandez was careful to point out that infection has many "pathways" into the United States, and instances of consciously planned damage to trade are few.

Left to Right: Preslar and Fernandez

Dr. Fernandez explained that AFHIS is undertaking to improve the efficacy of its preventive measures. This includes cooperation with DHS to discover new diagnostic methods and technologies. AFHIS is also examining new vaccine production to respond to disease outbreaks. AFHIS's National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory Network is

decentralizing its laboratory processes to make them more responsive to current needs and is developing regional "sensors" for areas with suspect diseases. Dr. Fernandez concluded by highlighting the importance of USDA's international efforts to achieve better international animal and food standards. APHIS has the twin goals of reducing the risk of disease being brought into nations while reducing the economic damage caused by outbreaks. With more research and information, international trade in agricultural goods can continue to increase to the benefit of farmers and consumers.

Paul Haddow, executive director of international affairs for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CIFA), began with a discussion of the implications and effects of September 11, 2001. He argued that mutual security is paramount, because the introduction of an animal disease or illness would affect all of North America within a couple of days, regardless of where the disease is introduced. He argued that even if an outbreak were to be quickly contained, the economic effects and implications could not. Mr. Haddow raised concerns over the suitability of the prior notification rules for road shipping and agricultural products, and suggested that distinctions needed to be made among the different modes of travel, and that customs and FDA prior notifications could be fused. Although he praised the "Smart Border" programs between the United States and Canada and Mexico, he lamented that other ongoing programs of cooperation need similar attention. He concluded by re-affirming his belief in NAFTA but stated that government agencies should look for ways to modernize, refocus, and rethink how they cooperate together at the border.

The final panelist, John Pandol, Mexico Manager of Pandol Brothers, Inc., a food wholesaler provided an industry perspective on the safety and security of agricultural trade in North America. In his opinion, the biggest risk of introduction of an animal or plant virus or illness is not through commercial deliveries, but through non-commercial shipments, that is, individuals bringing or shipping goods into the United States. He stated that commercial shippers make huge efforts to comply with the rules to ensure that they can trade efficiently, while individuals tend to be ignorant of the risks and can bring produce back, or send it via mail.

Mr. Pandol acknowledged that there is a lack of government control throughout the production chain of food produced in Mexico. He stated that there were private initiatives, such as the Food Safety Initiative, but that such measures are far from universal. Product and trailer sealing and access restriction were fields cited by Mr. Pandol as crucial to reducing the risk of terrorist contamination. Furthermore, he expressed concern that most supermarkets have failed to fully institute proper food safety programs and have a tendency to push the blame and responsibility up the supply chain.

The discussion centered on food safety and the possible threats that terrorists could pose to consumers, and on the different actors and methods that would be necessary to best counter such a threat. Mr. Pandol was asked about compliance and his industry's position regarding the implementation of FDA

prior-notification rules. Mr. Pandol replied that implementation has begun with the larger firms and should soon start affecting smaller firms. He then discussed the difficulty his firm is facing with the new prior-notification rules because crops are often picked and shipped more quickly than the prior-notification period.

Dr. Fernandez and Mr. Haddow were asked whether they believed their organizations were capable of dealing with the food safety and terror questions following 9/11. In reply, Mr. Haddow stressed that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency works closely with law enforcement agencies and is the "front line" due to their specialized knowledge. Dr. Fernandez expressed a similar sentiment, but reminded the audience members that they needed to analyze the risks, identifying the areas with the largest impact regarding morbidity of animals, crops, and humans. Dr. Fernandez drew attention to the problem of getting information disseminated without informing potential terrorists of weaknesses.

A member of the audience asked the panel to address what impact the risks and regulations have on trade and competitiveness. Dr. Fernandez responded by stating that APHIS has been working to analyze risks originating from abroad and offers advice to nations to mitigate these risks. Ms. DeWaal criticized FDA's operations for its over-reliance on border inspections. Mr. Haddow noted that Canada has not seen trade volumes falling.

The final question began with the assertion that instances of food contamination and outbreaks of disease generally originate domestically and asked about the policy balance between domestic and international threats. Mr.. Haddow stated that his agency gave due emphasis to imports, but CIFA makes a major effort to educate Canada's industry and public about playing an active role in food safety. Dr. Fernandez stated that APHIS's domestic surveillance role was more limited. Mr. Pandol suggested that Mexico was not doing enough to assure food safety.

CSIS's Americas Program activities and conferences are funded by contributions from private corporations and foundations interested in the role of the region in the new millennium and the challenges impacting U.S. policy towards the region. In addition to CSIS members, CSIS received support from the National Associations for Chain Drug Stores (NACDS).

CONFERENCE AGENDA
SAFETY AND SECURITY IN NORTH AMERICAN TRADE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

9:00	Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks, **Erik Peterson**, Senior Vice President and Director of Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies
9:15 – 11:00	Panel # 1: **Pharmaceutical Trade** **MODERATOR: Dr. Sidney Weintraub**, Director, Americas Program, Simon Chair in Political Economy, Center for Strategic and International Studies - **Peter Pitts,** Associate Commissioner for External Relations, Food and Drug Administration - **Laura Nagel,** Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency - **Ronald Guse,** Registrar, Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Agencies (Canada)
11:00 – 11:15	**Break**
11:15 – 12:45	Panel # 2: **Pharmaceutical Trade** **MODERATOR: Dr. Charles F. Doran,** Andrew W. Mellon Professor of International Relations, Director of the Center for Canadian Studies, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University - **Geralyn Ritter,** Assistant General Consul, PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) - **Chellie Pingree**, President, Common Cause - **Dr. Elizabeth Wennar** , United Health Alliance
12:45 – 1:00	**Break**
1:00-2:00	**Lunch – Keynote Address** - **Robert Bonner,** Commissioner, U.S Customs Service
2:00-4:00	**Panel # 3: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** **MODERATOR: Dorothy D. Preslar,** Director, International Lookout for Infectious Animal and Anthro-Zoonotic Diseases (ILIAAD) - **Paul Haddow,** Executive Director for International Affairs, Canadian Food Inspection Agency - **Dr. Peter Fernandez,** Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture - **John Pandol,** Mexico Manager, Importer/Exporter of Mexican Grapes, Pandol Brothers Inc. - **Caroline DeWaal**, Director of Food Safety, Center for Science in the Public Interest

Keynote Speaker

Robert C. Bonner

Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection

United States Department of Homeland Security

Robert C. Bonner is Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) within the Department of Homeland Security. CBP is comprised of 35,000 federal employees, which includes 17,000 inspectors and canine enforcement officers from the APHIS-Agricultural Quarantine Inspection program, INS inspection services, and the Customs Service, and 10,000 Border Patrol Agents.

Prior to that, Robert C. Bonner served as Commissioner of the United States Customs Service, having been nominated by President George W. Bush on June 24, 2001. Commissioner Bonner has served as an Assistant United States Attorney, as the United States Attorney for the Central District of California, as a United States District Judge, and as the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Commissioner Bonner is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Georgetown School of Law. After clerking for a U.S. District Judge, he served for three years on active duty in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps. Following his service in the military, Commissioner Bonner spent four and one half years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles before turning to private practice in 1975.

In 1984, Commissioner Bonner returned to public service after he was appointed by President Reagan to be the United States Attorney for the Central District of California (1984-1989). He was subsequently appointed by former President George Bush in 1989 to serve as United States District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (1989-1990). Former President Bush went on to appoint him as Administrator of the DEA in 1990 (1990-1993).

Immediately prior to assuming his duties at the U.S. Customs Service, Commissioner Bonner was a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. A member of the firm's Litigation Department, Commissioner Bonner's practice focused on business crime matters, governmental investigatory and regulatory actions, complex civil cases, and alternative dispute resolution. He has varied and extensive experience as a trial lawyer, having tried over 70 cases to verdict or judgment. He is a recognized national expert on crime, justice and drug issues.

Commissioner Bonner is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a past president of the Federal Bar Association, Los Angeles Chapter. He was the Chairman of California's Commission on Judicial Performance (1997-99), and is a member of the California and District of Columbia bars. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Panel #1: Pharmaceutical Trade

Moderator:

Dr. Sidney Weintraub

William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy
Director, Americas Program

Dr. Sidney Weintraub is director of the CSIS Americas Program and the senior scholar specializing in Western Hemisphere issues. In addition, he holds the William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy at the Center as well as the Director of the Americas Program. He is also professor emeritus at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs of the University of Texas at Austin, where he taught before joining CSIS.

A member of the U.S. Foreign Service from 1949 to 1975, Dr. Weintraub held the post of deputy assistant secretary of state for international finance and development from 1969 to 1974 and assistant administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1975. He has also been a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. His most recent books are *Financial Decision-Making in Mexico: To Bet a Nation* and *Development and Democracy in the Southern Cone: Imperatives for U.S. Policy in South America*. He is coauthor of *The NAFTA Debate: Grappling with Unconventional Trade Issues* and author of *NAFTA at Three: A Progress Report*, *A Marriage of Convenience: Relations between Mexico and the United States*, and *Free Trade between Mexico and the U.S.?. H*e has also published numerous articles in newspapers and journals.

Dr. Weintraub received his Ph.D. in economics from the American University and speaks Spanish and French.

Panel Members:

Laura M. Nagel

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control
Drug Enforcement Administration

Laura M. Nagel is currently the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Prior to this appointment, Ms. Nagel was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of DEA's Washington, D.C. Division.

Since joining the DEA in 1979, Ms. Nagel has served as Chief of the Executive Policy and Strategic Planning Staff, Chief of the Office of Operations Management's Budget Section, Staff Coordinator in the Office of Operations Management's Policy

Section, Group Supervisor in the Phoenix Division, Instructor in Quantico's Office of Training; and Special Agent in the New York, San Francisco and Boston Divisions.

In 1979, Ms. Nagel received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Peter J. Pitts

Public Affairs Councilor
Strategic Corporate Leadership

Peter J. Pitts is the FDA's Associate Commissioner for External Relations. As FDA's "Chief Messaging Officer," Mr. Pitts challenge is to clearly define FDA's brand image and to communicate the agency's main themes to its' many constituencies.

His most recent book, *Become Strategic or Die*, is widely recognized as a cutting edge study of how leadership, in order to be successful over the long term, must be combined with strategic vision and ethical practice. Mr. Pitts writes a regularly syndicated national column for United Press International on topics related to successful leadership practices.

Prior to coming to the FDA, Mr. Pitts was Managing Partner of Wired World, a strategic public awareness company specializing in solving tough marketing problems, generating big ideas, and stimulating growth for clients. In the corporate world, he has served as Marketing Manager at the newly formed Cable Health Network, later to become Lifetime Network, then Assistant Creative Director at Reader's Digest, Creative Services Director at McCall's Magazine and then Director of Marketing at The New York Post. In 1991 Peter became Director of Marketing for The Washington Times and Insight Magazine. In 1995, Peter joined the Hudson Institute as Vice President of Marketing and Communications. He also teaches as an adjunct professor at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

In 1998, Peter Pitts, a graduate of McGill University, was selected as one of Indianapolis' 40 Under 40 by the Indianapolis Business Journal.

Ronald Guse

Registrar
The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

Ronald Guse has been Registrar for the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association since his 1999 appointment. As well as the duties described in the *Pharmaceutical Act* to insure the protection of the public as the primary mandate, he has been involved with the development of provincial and national Standards of Practice, the Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program, Legislative Review Committee, Drug Program Information Network, Personal Health Information Act and procedures for pharmacy inspection.

In 1984, Guse first joined the association as the Deputy Registrar/Inspector following his 1979 graduation from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba.

Ron is a member of the Faculty of Pharmacy Council and a sessional lecturer at the University of Manitoba. He is also a member of the Consensus Committee on Medication Utilization and the vice chair of the Council of Pharmacy Registrars of Canada of the NAPRA.

Panel #2: Pharmaceutical Trade

Moderator:

Dr. Charles F. Doran

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of International Relations,
Director of the Center for Canadian Studies,
The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies,
Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Charles Doran is currently the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of International Relations and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. His research encompasses security policy, conflict analysis, and commercial, environmental, and energy research issues, assessing costs and options facing governments and other actors. He pioneered work in political risk analysis. He has authored approximately one hundred refereed articles and books and numerous professional papers in international politics and political economy.

Past president of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States, he was the Claude T. Bissell Professor of Canadian-American Relations at the University of Toronto (1985-1986) and a recipient of the Donner Medal for Distinguished Scholarship in Canadian Studies. In 1999, Dr. Doran received the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies from Canada's head of state, a prestigious honor conferred upon only one other U.S. scholar in its history. Dr. Doran is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the North American Committee, and the Western Hemisphere Committee of the Atlantic Council. Director of a number of research projects on NAFTA and international political economy, he also led a major study for the Middle East Institute on Gulf security and pioneered work in political risk analysis.

Dr. Doran holds an A.B. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

Panel Members

Chellie Pingree

President
Common Cause

Chellie Pingree is the president of Common Cause, a non-partisan citizens' organization whose goal is to ensure open, honest, accountable and effective government at the federal, state, and local levels. She has had a varied career in business, farming and public service. From 1992 to 2000 she was a Maine State Senator serving the last four years as the Senate Majority Leader. There, she was well known for several successful legislative battles regarding health care, economic development and the environment and was the winner of several awards including Consumer Health Advocate of the Year by Families, USA.

Prior to serving in public life Chellie was active in her community of North Haven. Besides serving in local office, such as the chair of the school board, she also founded and chaired the North Haven Arts and Enrichment Association supporting arts in the community and schools. Their production *Islands* was performed on Broadway and recently documented on PBS.

Chellie was a farmer for many years raising vegetables, dairy cows and sheep, and in 1980 she started a cottage industry of hand knitters that she developed into a national business that she sold in 1993. She has been active in rural economic development issues, and helped to create an economic development corporation supporting small business creation and peer lending. In 1995, she coauthored the book *Sustaining Island Economies* with the Island Institute to serve as a guide to Maine's 14 year round islands. In 1993 the Economic Development Council of Maine named her "Legislator of the Year" for her work as the Senate Chair of the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

Chellie has also been involved in several international efforts, including working with women in politics and business for two months in Hungary as a 1997 Eisenhower Fellow. She has also traveled to two training missions in Northern Ireland, was a White House observer of the 1998 Bosnia Elections and has been in India with Global Peace Initiative.

Geralyn Ritter

Assistant General Consul
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Geralyn S. Ritter is Assistant General Counsel at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) where she is responsible for international legal affairs. Prior to joining PhRMA in 2003, Ms. Ritter was Trade Counsel at the law firm of Covington & Burling, and represented clients on international trade and international

intellectual property issues. Her practice focused on trade issues affecting the software industry, as well as on other electronic commerce, services and intellectual property matters. She frequently represented clients before the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and other government agencies responsible for U.S. trade policy.

From 1997-2000, Ms Ritter served at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as Associate General Counsel, and was responsible for intellectual property legal issues at the agency. She represented the United States in more than a dozen WTO dispute settlement cases on intellectual property issues, including the first TRIPS case presented to the WTO Appellate Body, and the first TRIPS case filed against the United States. She is an expert on U.S. intellectual property trade policy, and negotiated numerous international intellectual property agreements during her tenure at USTR.

From 1995-1997, Ms. Ritter was an Associate at Covington & Burling practicing in the areas of international litigation, international copyright enforcement and international trade. From 1994-1995, Ms. Ritter served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Frederic N. Smalkin in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Ms. Ritter received her masters degree in international studies in 1994 from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with distinction in international economics and European studies. She graduated from Stanford Law School in 1993 *order of the coif*, and *magna cum laude* from Duke University in 1990.

Dr. Elizabeth Wennar

President and CEO
United Health Alliance

Dr. Elizabeth Wennar is currently President and CEO of United Health Alliance, a Physician Hospital Organization (PHO). Dr. Wennar is responsible for strategic and business plan development, contract negotiations, development and administration, budgeting and oversight of operations of the PHO. She represents the PHO on the Putnam Memorial Corporation Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Management Team, and takes the leading role in developing new venture opportunities necessary to secure the organizations future.

Dr. Wennar's primary interests are health care reform issues, strategic thinking and planning for rural organizations, managing change and physician driven model development. She has considerable experience in the areas of health policy and administration for rural communities, and authored *Rural and Urban Hospital Closures, 1985-88, Differences in Risk Reflect Varying Hospital Operating and Environmental Characteristics* and *Rural Hospitals: Federal Leaders and Targeted Programs Needed.* She has previously held positions with major Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) and the United States General Accounting Office (GAO).

In addition to her degree in Business Administration, she is a graduate of Yale University's School of Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. Dr. Wennar is currently completing her doctorate in Health Policy, Administration and Leadership.

Panel # 3: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Moderator:

Dorothy Preslar

Executive Director
International Lookout for Infectious Animal & Anthropo-zoonotic Diseases (ILIAAD)

Dorothy Preslar is the Executive Director of ILIAAD (International Lookout for Infectious Animal & Anthropo-zoonotic Diseases), which conducts research in Tanzania testing the use of compact and portable technologies to detect, identify and report disease outbreaks in wild and farmed animals.

Formerly with the Federation of American Scientists, Ms. Preslar was a founding principal of ProMED-mail, director of the Animal Health/Emerging Animal Diseases program and worked with the FAS biological weapons project. She has written several papers on the economic and security impacts of infectious disease, including *The Importance of Disease Monitoring and Surveillance in the Watch for Agro-terrorism or Economic Sabotage.*

Ms. Preslar is a graduate of Wake Forest University and did graduate study in law and business at Georgetown, George Washington and American universities.

Panel Members:

Caroline Smith DeWaal

Director, Food Safety Program
Center for Science in the Public Interest

Caroline Smith DeWaal is the director of the food safety program for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and co-author of *Is Our Food Safe? A Consumer's Guide to Protecting Your Health and the Environment*. She represents CSPI in Congress and in the regulatory arena on such issues as meat and poultry safety, seafood safety, food additives, pesticides and sustainable agriculture, and animal drugs.

Ms. DeWaal is the leading consumer analyst on reform of laws and regulations governing food safety. Since 1999, she has maintained and annually published a listing of foodborne illness outbreaks organized by food source that now contains over ten years of outbreaks reports. She has presented CSPI's outbreak database at numerous scientific conferences, including the American Public Health Association, International Association for Food Protection, and the American Society for Microbiology. Ms. DeWaal has testified before numerous committees of Congress over the years, and has presented papers on food safety at over 50 scientific and public policy conferences. She participated in the World Health Organization Strategic Planning on Food Safety and other international meetings. She was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection from 1997-2000, and is currently on the Editorial Board of the Food and Drug Law Journal and a member of the International Association of Food Protection.

Prior to coming to CSPI, Ms. DeWaal was Director of Legal Affairs for Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, where she spearheaded Public Voice's lobbying effort on seafood safety in Congress, at the FDA, and in the media. Ms. DeWaal graduated from the University of Vermont and Antioch School of Law, and is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

Dr. Peter Fernandez

Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Peter Fernandez was appointed Associate Administrator for APHIS by Administrator Bobby Acord on April 24, 2002. In this position, he works closely with Mr. Acord to provide executive leadership across the broad range of activities and programs carried out by the Agency. Dr. Fernandez also serves as the United States delegate to the Office International des Epizooties.

From 1990-1993, Dr. Fernandez served as an epidemiologist for APHIS' International Services (IS) headquarters staff. He was assigned by APHIS to Mexico City from 1993–1998 and also became a member of the Senior Foreign Service. Dr. Fernandez was APHIS Regional Director for Mexico from 1995-1998 before moving to the position of APHIS Regional Director for South America, stationed in Santiago, Chile, from 1998–late 2000. Upon his return to the United States, he served as Associate Deputy Administrator for IS.

Dr. Fernandez was born in Long Island, New York. He has numerous degrees and has completed advanced course work at several universities including: Southampton College, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, and Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain.

Paul Haddow

Executive Director, International Affairs
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Paul Haddow is the Executive Director of International Affairs for CFIA, and is currently Canada's representative to the World Trade Organization Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues. He has held senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) such as Director of the Tariffs and Market Access Division and Director of the Trade Rules Division, as well as a member of Canada's Uruguay Round negotiating team.

Mr. Haddow joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as Executive Director of International Affairs in 1998, after returning from Nairobi where he was Deputy Head of Mission at the Canadian High Commission and Canada's Representative to United Nations Environment Programme. He spent several years working at the provincial level with the Saskatchewan government culminating in the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Trade Division, Saskatchewan Trade and Investment prior to joining DFAIT in 1989.

Mr. Haddow has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Loyola College as well as a Masters degree in economics from Queen's University.

John Pandol

Mexico Manager,
Pandol Brothers, Inc.

John Pandol is the Mexico Manager for Pandol Brothers, Inc., a grower, packer, shipper, and marketer of fresh grapes since 1941 with annual sales of $150 million. Mr. Pandol has been responsible for Mexican sourcing for the last 10 years, heading the contracting and relationship management with Mexican farmers as well as the operational issues involved in the Mexican grape deal.

Mr. Pandol, and Pandol Brothers, Inc., have participated in South American trade missions, a member of a phytosanitary protocol negotiation team to Mexico, and the Marketing Committee of California Grape and Tree Fruit League. He has been part of a defense team against a Dumping Case filed by part of the California industry, and has testified before the International Trade Commission in Washington. They are also members of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, a voluntary association of produce importers.

Mr. Pandol graduated from the University of Southern California, with studies in Madrid, Spain and Split, former Yugoslavia. He has also done additional undergraduate studies in Agricultural Economics at the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago, Chile.